

*Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's*

**LETTERS**

**OF**

**SUPPORT**

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SBA Communications Corporation  
Signature Court Reporting, Inc.  
Suffolk Construction Company, SE Region  
Wilmington Trust



March 3, 2014

#### **Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Support Letter**

As President and CEO of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, I wish to express my support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities' area of Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiment Program. This area has historically lacked affordable, quality, large bandwidth internet service and its citizens continue to pay the economic, educational, human services and safety price. The PBBC is a group of government, education, not for profit and state entities that have collaborated over the years to maximize public and philanthropic funds to decrease network costs, increase access and share scarce resources for maximum benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, including wireless access in some of our most impoverished urban communities. Broadband access has achieved substantial strides in the heavily populated eastern side of the county, but the western rural communities on the east side of the Lake require a substantial infrastructure investment that languishes in great part because of the long distances, challenging topography and lingering effects of the recession on public funds. This proposal in addition to local funds, expertise and sustainability can provide the leverage needed to overcome those barriers, creating expanded opportunities and a more level playing field countywide.

The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Inc. has a direct interest in increased internet broadband for these rural citizens because of projected business expansion and new commercial and industrial development specifically related to the proposed South Florida Intermodal Logistics Center (SFILC). The 850 acre SFILC will be able to accommodate up to 10 million square feet of office, manufacturing, warehouse and distribution space creating thousands of new jobs for the Glades communities. Access to broadband service will be key to corporate decisions on siting new facilities in the Glades region of Palm Beach County. The opportunity to access information or conduct enterprise from a school, college and other agencies opens doors for students and clients while improving services and lowering administrative costs.

The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,

Kelly Smallridge  
President & CEO



CareerSource  
PALM BEACH COUNTY

March 4, 2014

### Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Support Letter

CareerSource Palm Beach County wholeheartedly supports the Palm Beach County Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to provide residents in Palm Beach County's western communities with access to high quality broadband. As the steward of Palm Beach County's workforce development system, we are keenly aware of the critical link between broadband access and economic inclusion – it's nearly impossible to attain the latter without the former. For those living in Palm Beach County's rural, western region (i.e. Belle Glade, Pahokee, etc) access to affordable, reliable large bandwidth internet services has remained elusive. The PBBC proposal, which is a product of the collective wisdom of key stakeholders from a variety of sectors, promises to close the digital divide that has affected this region for years.

CareerSource Palm Beach County looks forward to working in partnership with the PBBC and other stakeholders to create a more level playing field in our western communities.

Sincerely,

Steve Craig

President/Chief Executive Officer





2300 High Ridge Road  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426  
Tel: 561.740.7000  
Fax: 561.835.1956

March 3, 2014

**Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Letter of Support:**

As CEO of Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, I wish to express my support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high-quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities' area of Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiment program. This area has historically lacked affordable, quality, large bandwidth Internet service and its citizens continue to pay the economic, educational, human services and safety price. The PBBC is a group of government, education, not-for-profit and state entities that have collaborated over the years to maximize public and philanthropic funds to decrease network costs, increase access and share scarce resources for maximum benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, including wireless access in some of our most impoverished urban communities. Broadband access has achieved substantial strides in the heavily populated eastern side of the county, but the western rural communities on the east side of the Lake require a substantial infrastructure investment that languishes in great part because of the long distances, challenging topography and lingering effects of the recession on public funds. This proposal, in addition to local funds, expertise and sustainability, can provide the leverage needed to overcome those barriers, creating expanded opportunities and a more level playing field countywide.

Children's Services Council has a direct interest in increased internet broadband for these rural citizens because the children and families we work with in the Glades need a level playing field when it comes to education, resources, job opportunities and community empowerment.

The opportunities to access information or conduct enterprise from a school, agency, college, and other agencies opens doors for students and clients while improving services and lowering administrative costs.

Children's Services Council appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,

Tana Ebbole,  
CEO

Children's Services Council Palm Beach County

**Executive Committee**

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Chairperson

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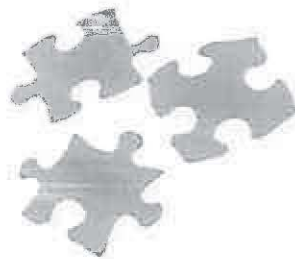
Debra Wilhelm

Carolyn Williams

**Executive Director**

Glenn Thomas

Palm Beach County  
Education Commission, Inc.



February 28, 2014

Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Support Letter

As the Executive Director of Palm Beach County Education Commission, Inc., I wish to express our support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities on the southern edge of Lake Okeechobee, in Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiment program. This area has historically lacked affordable, quality, large bandwidth internet service and its citizens continue to pay the economic, educational, human services and safety price.

The PBBC is a group of government, education, not for profit and state entities that have collaborated over the years to maximize public and philanthropic funds to decrease network costs, increase access and share scarce resources for maximum benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, including wireless access in some of our most impoverished urban communities. Broadband access has achieved substantial strides in the heavily populated eastern side of the county, but the western rural communities on the east side of the Lake require a substantial infrastructure investment that languishes in great part because of the long distances, challenging topography and lingering effects of the recession on public funds. This proposal in addition to local funds, expertise and sustainability can provide the leverage needed to overcome those barriers, creating expanded opportunities and more level playing field countywide.

Distance delivered advanced secondary academics; college course work and industry training open the door for residents of this geographically isolated area and stimulates economic development. The Education Commission has a direct interest in increased internet broadband for these rural citizens because the Commission membership links education at all levels, public and private, business and corporate and medical and social service entities-neonatal through adult for all citizens of Palm Beach County. A current emphasis of the Commission is to more tightly link providers and those they serve in the western part of the county using technology. The opportunities to access, to use and provide information via the internet opens doors for everyone while improving services and lowering administrative costs.

The Education Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thomas  
Executive Director

2324 S. Congress Avenue, Suite 2G, West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
(561) 439-5414 - FAX (561) 439-4972  
email: edcommission@bellsouth.net



**Financial Affairs**  
777 Glades Road  
Post Office Box 3091  
Boca Raton, Florida 33431  
Office of the Senior Vice President  
345 Williams Administration Building  
561.297.3450  
561.297.2772 (FAX)

**MEMORANDUM**

March 3, 2014

**Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Support Letter**

Florida Atlantic University is a member of the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition and I am writing this letter of support regarding the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities' area of Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiment program.

Florida Atlantic University has a direct interest in increased internet broadband for these rural citizens as it provides reliable access to county services, allows for decreased communication costs, provides for University electronic communications and web-based products to be accessible. FAU appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Crudele", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dennis J. Crudele  
Sr. Vice President



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February 28, 2014

**Palm Beach Broadband Coalition**

**Letter of Support: Rural Broadband Experiments - Palm Beach Broadband Coalition (PBBC)**

Florida LambdaRail's 1,540-mile state-spanning high-speed fiber optic network (robust and highly scalable) is designed to provide a cost effective, ultra-high speed, inter-connected, broadband service delivery network that enables Florida's higher education institutions and partners to collaborate, connect, utilize and develop new innovative broadband applications and services in support of their scientific research, education, and 21st century economy initiatives.

We enthusiastically endorse and support your efforts to collaboratively work together to bring broadband - yet also increase broadband adoption rates to rural areas in the region - particularly "un-served" challenging areas of our state. Florida LambdaRail (FLR) truly values our collaborative and long term working relationship with each of the Members of the Palm Beach County Broadband Coalition. These working relationships and partnerships collaboratively enable each of us (individually and collectively) to explore and discover innovative ways to provide the critical high-speed network infrastructure and capacity needed not only to support state, national and international research & education innovations by our research universities and affiliates - but also to "stand ready" as an enabling & supporting partner to organizations such as the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition.

You have our commitment, as a partner, both short and long term, to maintain and sustain a core research & education network infrastructure that enables the PBBC to explore, evaluate and implement "innovative alternatives and broadband experiments" for middle mile, last mile connectivity. We applaud the PBBC "vision" to shape and build a broadband-capable infrastructure designed to remove the existing "last mile" barriers to providing Internet to those areas where end users lack Internet broadband access. From our perspective, the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition is a great, continuing example of how people and community anchor organizations can come together -- to exchange ideas -- collaboratively work with each other to build solutions -- to achieve results for a common, shared good.

It is encouraging and exciting to hear about your continued efforts and focus upon the Glades region. On behalf of the Florida LambdaRail Board of Directors, and Executive Staff, we stand ready to do whatever it takes to collaboratively help you and your partners succeed in providing broadband access to Glades and the surrounding un-served areas of the region a reality.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Lazor

• DRIVEWAYS • PARKING AREAS • STREETS • GRADING • ROCK & FILL • CONCRETE WORK

## **HARDRIVES, INC.**

2101 SOUTH CONGRESS AVENUE  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33445-7398

PHONE 561-278-0486  
FAX 561-278-2147

March 3, 2013

### **Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Support Letter**

As President of Hardrives, Inc., I wish to express my support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities' area of Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission Rural Broadband Experiment program. This area has historically lacked affordable, quality, large bandwidth internet service and its citizens continue to pay the economic, educational, human services, and safety price. The PBBC is a group of government, education, not-for-profit, and state entities that have collaborated over the years to maximize public and philanthropic funds to decrease network costs, increase access and share scarce resources for maximum benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, including wireless access in some of our most impoverished urban communities. Broadband access has achieved substantial strides in the heavily populated eastern side of the county, but the western rural communities on the east side of the lake require a substantial infrastructure investment that languishes in great part because of the long distances, challenging topography, and lingering effects of the recession on public funds. This proposal in addition to local funds, expertise and sustainability can provide the leverage needed to overcome those barriers, creating expanded opportunities and a more level playing field countywide.

Hardrives, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational, and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,



George T. Elmore  
President





# PALM BEACH COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

March 4, 2014

## **Letter of Support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's Proposal to bring High Quality Broadband Service to the Belle Glade Communities**

As Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Housing Authority (PBCHA), I wish to express my support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities' area of Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiment program. This area has historically lacked affordable, quality, large bandwidth internet service and its citizens continue to pay the economic, educational, human services and safety price.

The PBBC is a group of government, education, not for profit and state entities that have collaborated over the years to maximize public and philanthropic funds to decrease network costs, increase access and share scarce resources for maximum benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, including wireless access in some of our most impoverished urban communities. Broadband access has achieved substantial strides in the heavily populated eastern side of the county, but the western rural communities on the east side of the Lake require a substantial infrastructure investment that languishes in great part because of the long distances, challenging topography and lingering effects of the recession on public funds. This proposal in addition to local funds, expertise and sustainability can provide the leverage needed to overcome those barriers, creating expanded opportunities and a more level playing field countywide.

The Palm Beach County Housing Authority has a direct interest in increased internet broadband for these rural citizens because it is the intent of PBCHA to acquire, and revitalize a housing development in Belle Glade to establish an innovative housing concept known as the "Campus of Learners". The "Campus of Learners" project would provide a college-like environment where learning opportunities are available to residents of all ages, as well job placement assistance, and other supportive services. Distance learning is an integral part of the "Campus of Learners" project, and increased internet broadband in the Glades would ensure such opportunities can be provided to the residents. The "Campus of Learners" is critical to the Glades area, as most residents are an impoverished population that is not economically self-sufficiency. Revitalizing and sustaining economic development of the Glade area will require multiple interventions from individuals, families, and the community as a whole. The Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's Proposal to bring High Quality Broadband Service to the Belle Glade Communities would be a greatly needed component.

PBCHA appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,

Van Johnson, Executive Director

PALM BEACH COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

3432 W. 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
Office: 561.684.2160  
Fax: 561.684.0183  
[www.pbchafl.org](http://www.pbchafl.org)



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

**E. WAYNE GENT  
SUPERINTENDENT**

**CHUCK SHAW  
CHAIRMAN**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, C-316  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5869**

**PHONE: 561-434-8203 / FAX: 561-434-8571  
[WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/SUPERINTENDENT](http://WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/SUPERINTENDENT)**

**FRANK A. BARBIERI, JR., ESQ.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**MARCIA ANDREWS  
KAREN M. BRILL  
JENNIFER PRIOR BROWN, ESQ.  
MIKE MURGIO  
DEBRA ROBINSON, M.D.**

**March 4, 2014**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

As the Superintendent of The School District of Palm Beach County, I wish to express our support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities of Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiment program.

This area has historically lacked affordable, quality, large bandwidth internet service and its citizens continue to pay the economic, educational, human services, and safety price. The PBBC is a group of government, education, not-for-profit and state entities that have collaborated over the years to maximize public and philanthropic funds to decrease network costs, increase access, and share scarce resources for maximum benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, including wireless access in some of our most impoverished urban communities.

Broadband access has achieved substantial strides in the heavily populated eastern side of the county, but the western rural communities on the east side of the Lake require a substantial infrastructure investment that languishes in great part because of the long distances, challenging topography, and lingering effects of the recession on public funds. This proposal, in addition to local funds, expertise, and sustainability, can provide the leverage needed to overcome those barriers, creating expanded opportunities and a more level playing field countywide.

The School District of Palm Beach County has a direct interest in increased internet broadband for these rural citizens. The opportunities to access information or conduct enterprise from a school, agency, college, and other agencies opens doors for students and clients while improving services and lowering administrative costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational, and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,

**E. Wayne Gent  
Superintendent**

**EWG:du**



February 28, 2014

**Palm Beach Broadband Coalition Letter of Support**

As President of Palm Beach State College, I wish to express my support for the Palm Beach Broadband Coalition's (PBBC) proposal to extend high quality broadband access to the rural Glades communities' area of Palm Beach County, Florida under the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiment program. This area has historically lacked affordable, quality, large bandwidth internet service and its citizens continue to pay the economic, educational, human services and safety price.

The PBBC is a group of government, education, not-for-profit and state entities that have collaborated over the years to maximize public and philanthropic funds to decrease network costs, increase access and share scarce resources for maximum benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, including wireless access in some of our most impoverished urban communities. Broadband access has achieved substantial strides in the heavily populated eastern side of the county, but the western rural communities on the east side of the Lake require a substantial infrastructure investment that languishes in great part because of the long distances, challenging topography and lingering effects of the recession on public funds. This proposal in addition to local funds, expertise and sustainability can provide the leverage needed to overcome those barriers, creating expanded opportunities and a more level playing field countywide.

Palm Beach State College has a direct interest in increased internet broadband for these rural citizens because the College maintains a campus in Belle Glade that serves and supports education in the community. Many of the students attending the Belle Glade Campus only have access to Internet content while on campus. This negatively impacts the student's access to online content and distance education off campus.

The digital divide splits Palm Beach County in terms of Internet access. Many places, particularly in more rural areas, have difficulty justifying access to high-speed internet due to an insufficient local market. The Glades community needs to develop its own network to support education, which in turn will attract and sustain businesses in the community.

Palm Beach State College appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support to further the collective regional work of many governmental, educational and not-for-profit partners through the Rural Broadband Experiment on behalf of those we serve in the rural communities.

Sincerely,



Dennis Gallon, Ph.D.  
President